

Given a character sketch, the reader predicts appropriate actions for that character.

UNIT 10
Lesson 1
Drawing Conclusions

TECHNICAL TALK

Is the name Ebenezer Scrooge familiar to you? Have you ever called anyone Scrooge? He is the main character in Charles Dickens' story "A Christmas Carol." Scrooge is an old man who has dried up. He loves money more than people. He does not believe in the goodwill that people usually share at Christmas time. In fact he calls the whole season a "humbug."

Then the ghost of a dead business partner comes to Scrooge. He promises that three more ghosts will visit Scrooge. They will be the ghosts of Christmas past, present, and future. They come, and Scrooge sees the error of his ways. We still call a dried-up, skinflint, money-grabbing person a "Scrooge."

There is a point to all this. Once we meet a character and see the things he or she does, we draw some conclusions. We expect the character to stay the same unless there are reasons for change. Scrooge had plenty of reasons. How would you like to meet three ghosts in one night?

TRY IT

Read the statements below. What things would you expect Scrooge to do and what things would you not expect Scrooge to do during the time he was still calling Christmas a humbug? Write Would or Would not after each statement.



WILL THE REAL SCROOGE STAND UP, PLEASE

1. Try to keep his employees from taking a vacation on Christmas Day. _____
2. Not burn coal for warmth even though his hands and feet were cold. _____
3. Send Christmas cards to his friends. _____
4. Give presents to the children of his employees. _____
5. Give money to the poor. _____
6. Eat his food at home alone. _____
7. Use only one candle because he wanted to save money. _____
8. Chase the children away from his shop when they try to sing Christmas carols. _____
9. Refuse to believe someone was trying to help him. _____
10. Give a tip to a boy who had run an errand for him. _____

- We know Scrooge thinks money is more important than friendship. We would not expect him to send Christmas cards to his friends, give presents, give money to the poor, or give a tip.

The beauty of Dickens' story about Scrooge is that the author lets us see Scrooge change. When we read a story, see how characters change, and understand the reasons for their change, the writer has given us a good story.

Read the sketch below. Draw some conclusions and answer the questions.



RAID

It was almost dawn. The birds were just waking up, but the men had been ready for almost an hour. They had brought their small ships up river from the sea during the night. They hid them carefully so no one could find them.

The chief, Odensman, lay waiting with his 60 men near the small village. As soon as it was light they would start. He smiled to himself and pulled the heavy battle ax from its leather cover. It was sharp and ready.

The Vikings came out of the north into Europe. They carried battle axes, swords, and spears. They came to steal and burn. They landed in ships along the coast and burned the towns. They took everything of value back to their homes in the north. They killed thousands of people during the years between 700 and 1100. The people of Europe never knew when they would strike and there was never time to get an army together to stop them. The people in Europe prayed, "God, deliver us from the fury of the Northmen."

Odensman looked over the village in the grey light. It did not look very rich. Probably the only things they would find of value would be in the church. He wondered why the people collected treasures for their churches and lived so poorly themselves. It was light enough to see the small church steeple now.

Odensman got to his feet and waved his arm toward the town. He was ready. The Vikings rose and started toward the town on a slow run.

Check the following statements that are the best conclusions about what has happened or what will happen next.

1. ☐ The men are Vikings.
2. ☐ They have come to raid the village and steal whatever they find.
3. ☐ They will probably kill as many people in the village as they can.
4. ☐ The Vikings will stay to live in the town after the raid.
5. ☐ The Vikings will not damage the church or steal from it.
6. ☐ The Vikings expect the villagers to put up a strong fight.
7. ☐ The year is sometime between 650 and 700 A.D.
8. ☐ The Vikings will probably all be killed.

Read the sketch below and answer the questions that follow it.

UNIT 10
Lesson 3
Drawing Conclusions



HERE COMES THE JUDGE

Jean just wished it was not Miss Seaton. She was always talking about standards. Miss Seaton was one of those teachers who did everything right. She never left school until 5:00. She always handed back their papers the next day. She was just not the kind of teacher you could cheat on.

Jean was sitting outside the principal's office waiting. Miss Seaton and the principal, Mrs. Bosley, were in there deciding. Jean kept wondering how she had gotten into this mess. She knew better, but she had done it anyway. She had found a theme in her brother's old stuff at home. She had changed the name of it and handed it in to Miss Seaton as her own.

The trouble was, Miss Seaton remembered the theme. It seems that her brother had handed it in three or four years earlier—to Miss Seaton, naturally. It was a good theme, she said, but it wasn't good enough to be used twice. That's the way Miss Seaton had told her she knew.

Jean wondered what she would have to do next. There were a number of things they could do, she supposed. They could kick her out of school. Or they might just give her a warning and forget it. Her grades had not been bad that semester. But then, she had to worry about Miss Seaton's standards. She supposed there would be calls to her mother. "Oh, man," she thought. "If I get out of this, I'm never going to play that on Seaton again!"

Answer the questions below. You will have to draw several conclusions about the characters. Write reasons for your answers.

1. Do you think Jean's brother was a good student? _____

2. Do you think Jean will ever cheat again like this? _____

3. Do you think Miss Seaton will ask to have Jean expelled? _____

4. Do you think Miss Seaton will "just forget" the whole thing? _____

5. If you were Miss Seaton, what would you do? _____

HOW DID YOU DO?

